



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-02-040 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 3 Jul 02 Phone: (817) 886-1517

Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on environmental document for implementation of the Eagleland Ecosystem Restoration Project in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

FORT WORTH, TX - The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is currently accepting comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA), a National Environmental Policy Act document, for the alternatives pertaining to the proposed implementation of the Eagleland Ecosystem Restoration Project. The area is within a three-quarter mile reach of the San Antonio River, from South Alamo Street to the Union Pacific railroad tracks, immediately upstream of the San Antonio River Tunnel outlet near Lone Star Boulevard.

The proposed action would consist of restoring native vegetation within the flood channel right-of-way, restoring meanders in the river channel and creating a riffle-pool complex. The intended result would be a more natural, meandering river corridor that would also continue to provide flood control. Non-native species of grasses and trees would be replaced by native species along the flood control channel side slopes and the tops of banks and within the flood control channel where practicable.

Modifications to the existing river channel would consist of realigning the channel primarily along the outside of existing meander bends and recontouring the side slopes as needed. Modifications within the river consist of placing a rock riffle structure to create a riffle-pool complex.

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Under the proposed action, potential impacts to the vegetation community and terrestrial and aquatic habitat would be positive due to the establishment of native vegetation and improvement of water quality. The proposed action would also restore biodiversity, carrying capacity and nesting/feeding habitat for resident and migratory fish, wildlife and plant species.

Written comments on the EA will be accepted through August 1, 2002 by sending them directly to Mr. Karl J. Weighmann, CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102-0300, or by e-mail at Karl.J.Weighmann@swf02.usace.army.mil. Copies of the project measures, EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact may be requested in writing at the above address or by telephone at (817) 886-1713.

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Check out the Fort Worth District Web Site at
<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>